

SPECIAL MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
July 15, 2010

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Haddad, Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer

II. WORK SESSION

School Building Project

Mayor Paterson welcomed members of the Mansfield Board of Education and staff to the work session. The session was called to discuss the School Building Project and the next steps in the process. Town Manager Matt Hart distributed a worksheet outlining critical questions and options. (Worksheet attached)

Council members discussed their preferred options, the effect of the project on other future and current Town needs, the effect of the project on the tax rate and bond rating, the unpredictability of state revenue and the economy in general, the location of the proposed schools and possible timetables for implementing the project.

By consensus the Council agreed not to add the School Building Project to the November 2010 ballot but instead to continue to work on the options and see how local and state budgetary projections develop.

Council members asked staff to provide the following for the next work session:

- An accounting of repairs needed for the schools in the short term which would make the facilities serviceable for the next 5 years or so.
- An accounting of crucial repair needed for the schools over the next 5 – 10 years.
- A meeting with Lawrence Associates and DRA Architect to review the project and provide information regarding the choices made and priorities identified in the decision process.
- Provide information on a modified Option E which would include the Middle School as described in Option A.
- Additional discussion regarding the Town's fiscal capacity including tax burdens and debt.

Board of Education Chair Mark LaPlaca restated the Board's recommendation of the two school option. Council members requested input from the Board on the merits of considering the elementary schools projects and the middle school project separately.

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Manager will meet to structure the next meeting. The Sustainability Committee is working on a tool to assist with location

choice which will be used by staff as they continue the process of evaluating existing and potential sites.

Communications received by Town Council members and Town Management are included as part of this record. (Statements attached)

III. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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